

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05

CU-02 /055 W

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R 280930Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9263

USIA WASHDC

INFO USNATO BRUSSELS 395

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PROP, BU

SUBJECT: V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

VIENNA FOR RPO

REF: A) STATE 35348; B) STATE 42130

1. OBSERVANCE OF V-E DAY IN BULGARIA WILL BE GEARED TO GLORIFICATION OF SOVIET UNION AND SOVIET-BULGARIAN TIES WITH LITTLE IF ANY INTENTION TO BRING OUT ROLE PLAYED BY US AND OTHER WESTERN ALLIES IN VICTORY. THIS IS CLEAR FROM FREQUENT OFFICIAL COMMENT THAT HAS APPEARED IN PRESS RECENTLY AND FROM BCP POLITBURO DECREE OUTLINING PROGRAM FOR ANNIVERSARY. IF WE ARE TO COUNTERACT NEGLECT OF ALLIED ROLE, WE WILL NEED TO TAKE ACTION BEFORE CELEBRATION

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PLANS ARE TOO FAR ADVANCED.

2. LONG INTRODUCTION OF POLITBURO DECREE IS PAEAN TO ACTIVITIES AND EXAMPLE OF SOVIET UNION DURING AND FOLLOWING WWII. REFERENCE ALSO MADE TO BULGARIAN PARTISANS, BUT PARTICIPATION OF WESTERN ALLIES IN VICTORY NOT MENTIONED. DECREE CALLS FOR COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS AS FOLLOWS:

A) MASS MEDIA EDUCATION OF PUBLIC ON SIGNIFICANCE AND OBSERVATION OF V-E DAY;

B) OFFICIAL MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF BCP, STATE COUNCIL, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, ETC., FEATURING REPORT BY PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV;

C) EXCHANGE VISITS OF CHILDREN OF BULGARIAN AND SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN WAR;

D) JUBILEE SESSION DEVOTED TO ANNIVERSARY TO BE ORGANIZED BY ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN COOPERATION WITH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTES;

E) INVITATION OF SOVIET LECTURERS;

F) ISSUANCE OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMP;

G) CREATION OF ART WORKS COMMEMORATING EVENTS;

H) PROJECTION OF MOVIES ON WWII;

I) OBSERVANCE PROGRAM FOR BULGARIAN FOREIGN MISSIONS TO BE DRAWN UP BY MFA.

3. STILL UNCERTAIN TO WHAT EXTENT EMBASSY AND OTHER WESTERN MISSIONS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OBSERVANCE HERE, BUT USUAL CUSTOM IS TO INVITE DIPLO-MATIC CORPS TO MARCH-PASTS AND CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS. WE SEE LITTLE BENEFIT IN TRYING TO CALL ATTENTION TO WESTERN ROLE IN DEFEAT OF GERMANS IN BULGARIA SINCE THAT ROLE WAS LARGELY CONFINED TO US BOMBINGS WHICH WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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HIGHLY UNPOPULAR AS THEY HURT THE BULGARIANS MORE THAN THE GERMANS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS EVERY REASON TO CALL TO BULGARIAN ATTENTION THE FACT THAT OVERALL VICTORY OVER GERMANY WAS RESULT OF EAST-WEST COOPERATIVE EFFORT -- AND THAT IT WOULD HARDLY CONFORM TO CURRENT EAST-WEST DETENTE TO IGNORE THE WESTERN ROLE IN THE VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

4. WE SEE NO REASON WHY THIS SHOULD NOT BE DONE SOON, AND

IN A LOW-KEY MANNER. MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED HERE AMONG NATO
AMBASSADORS, BUT EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE WAITING FOR COORDI-
NATED POSITION TO BE DEVELOPED AMONG GOVERNMENTS. WE BE-
LIEVE STEP ONE (WARNING AGAINST ONE-SIDED CELEBRATION) COULD
BE TAKEN AT EARLY STAGE, EVEN WHILE GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER
OTHER STEPS SUCH AS SEPARATE CELEBRATIONS OF WESTERN
ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT VE-DAY, POSSIBLE DELEGATIONS TO EE
CAPITALS, EXHIBITS AND OTHER MATTERS.
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